



EMAIL AND SEARCH MAKE A BAD COCKTAIL

November 2, 2012 · by [jsling](#) · in [Tips](#), [Uncategorized](#) · [Edit](#)

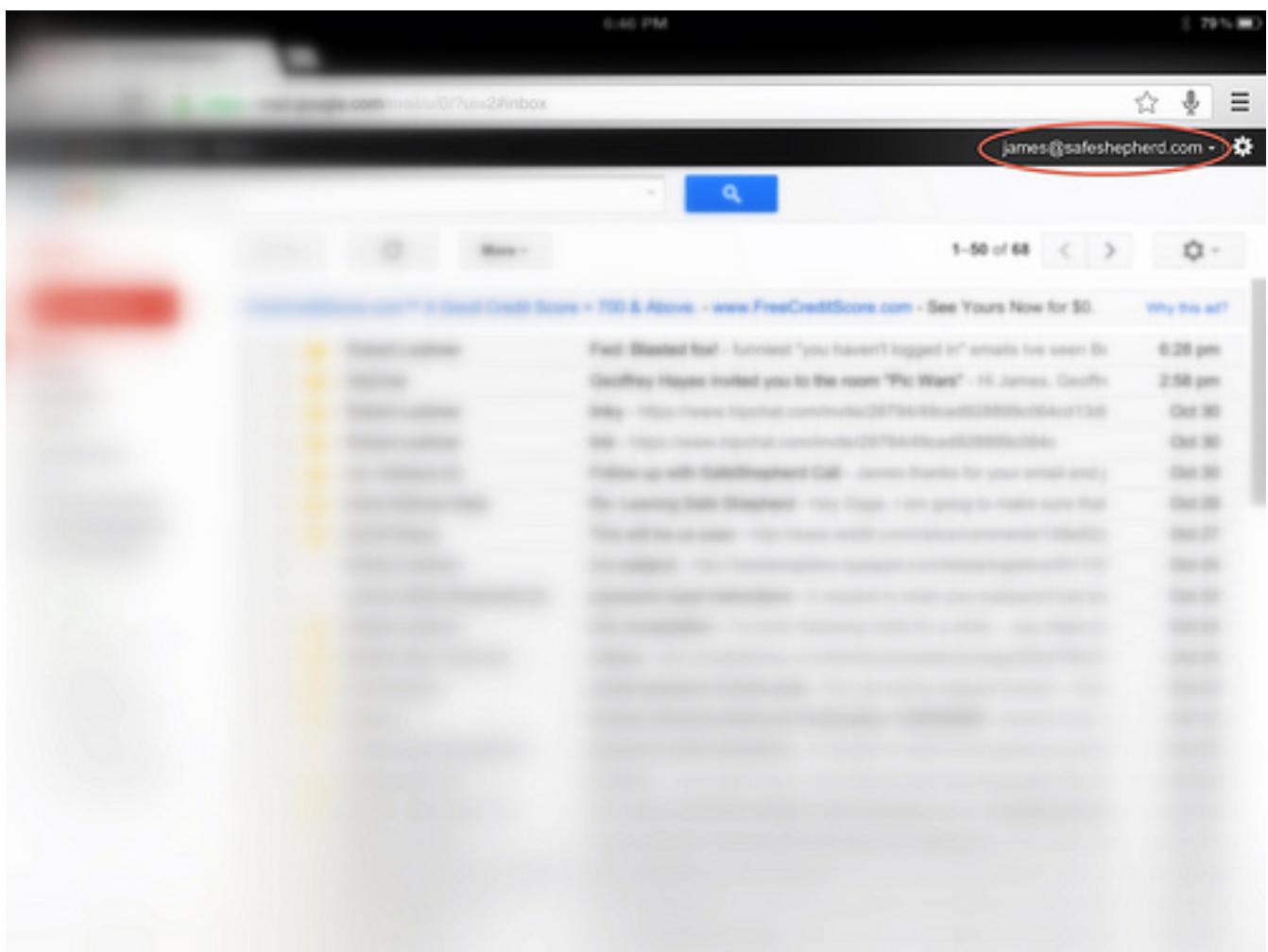
Signing in to Gmail does far more than just grant you access to email. The internet giant lets you enjoy all sorts of great features with a Gmail account. Some features might be more desirable than others however. Let's take a look at what all happens after you sign in.

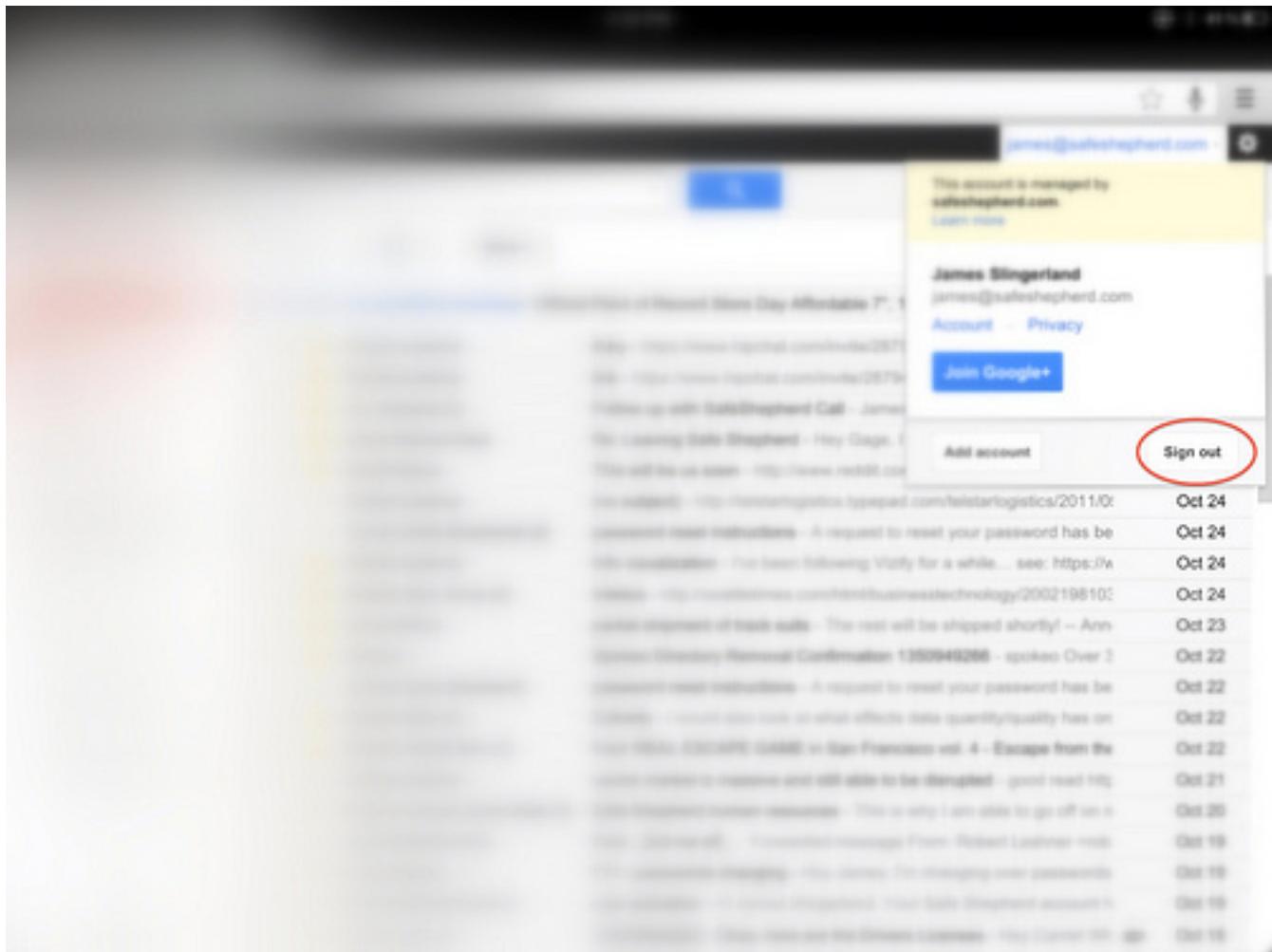
Gmail, after all, is operated by Google, the search master. After signing in to Gmail, you've signed in to Google itself. This means that your search history is saved, personally, under your email address. Currently, Google claims to not share this potentially embarrassing information with anyone. But at this point, all your queries are their property, and they are welcome to do whatever they wish with them.

In case you still want to enjoy the many awesome features associated with a Gmail account, there are two incredibly quick and simple ways to ensure search results are not logged under your name!

Method 1 – Sign out!

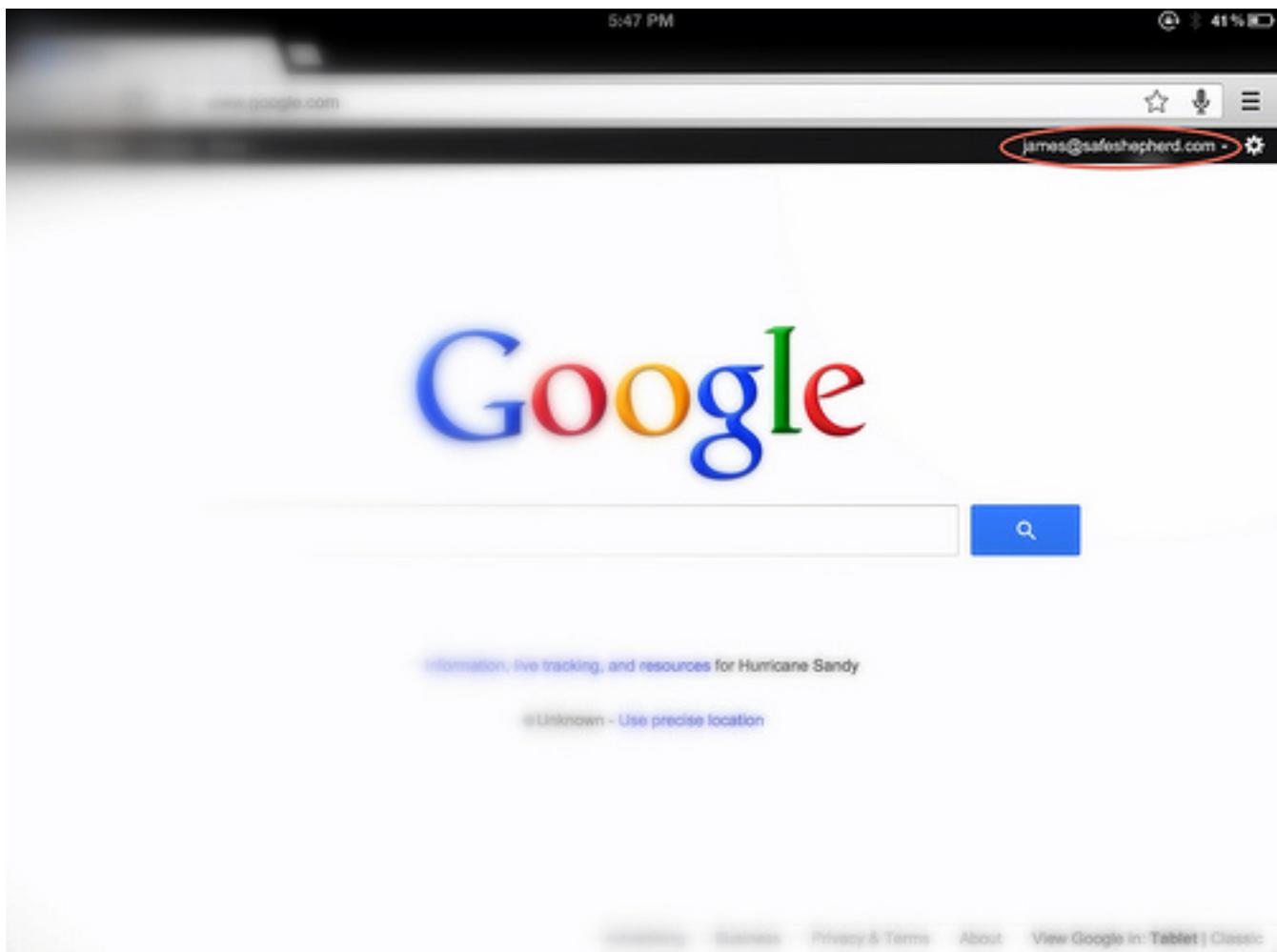
The easiest thing to do is to simply sign out once you're done checking your email. Just click your email address at the top right of your inbox. A 'Sign out' button will be in the bottom right of the little box that pops open. It's always a good idea to sign out once you've finished on any website. You never know who's going to be using the web browser after you [even on your own computer!].

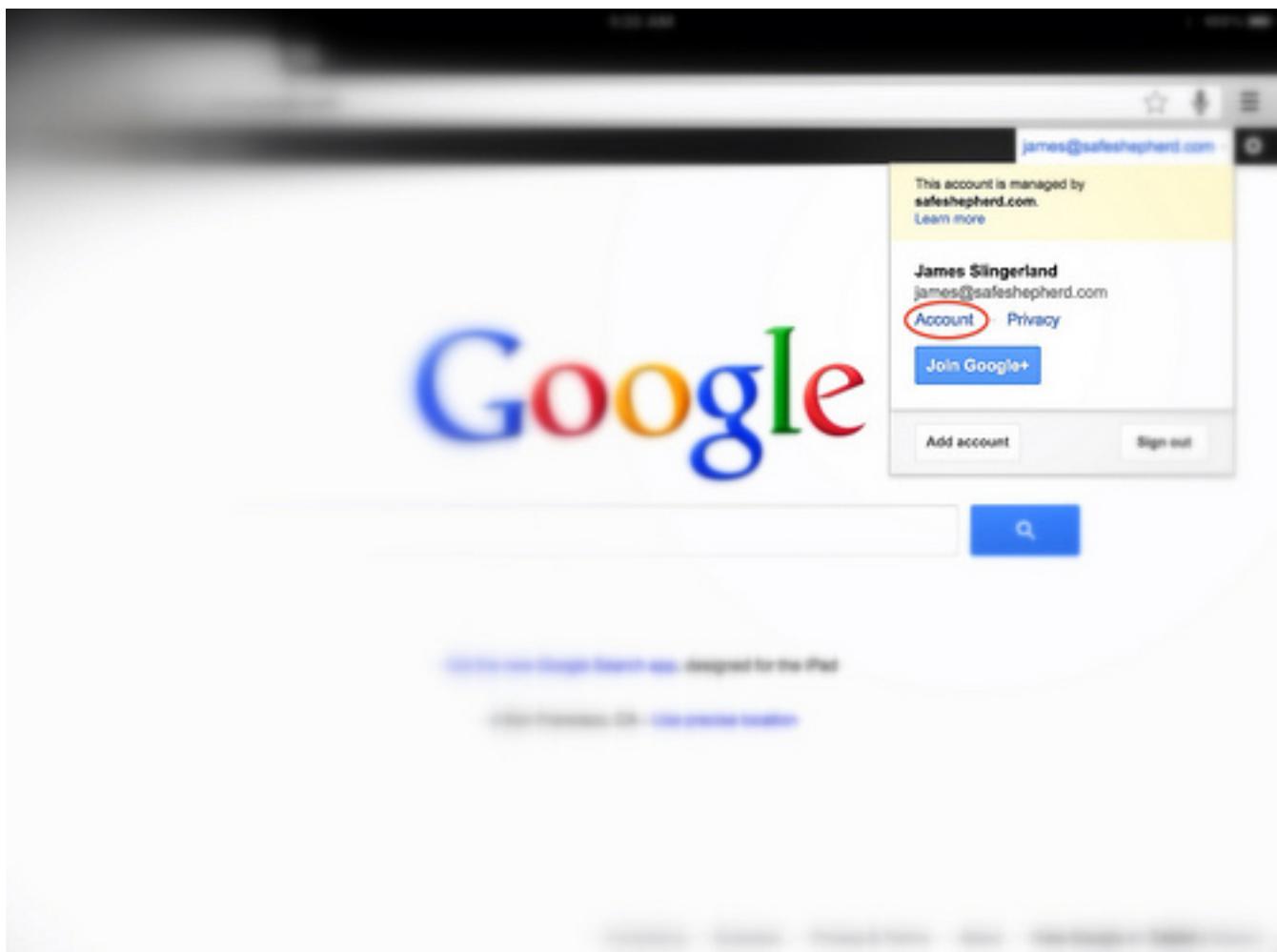


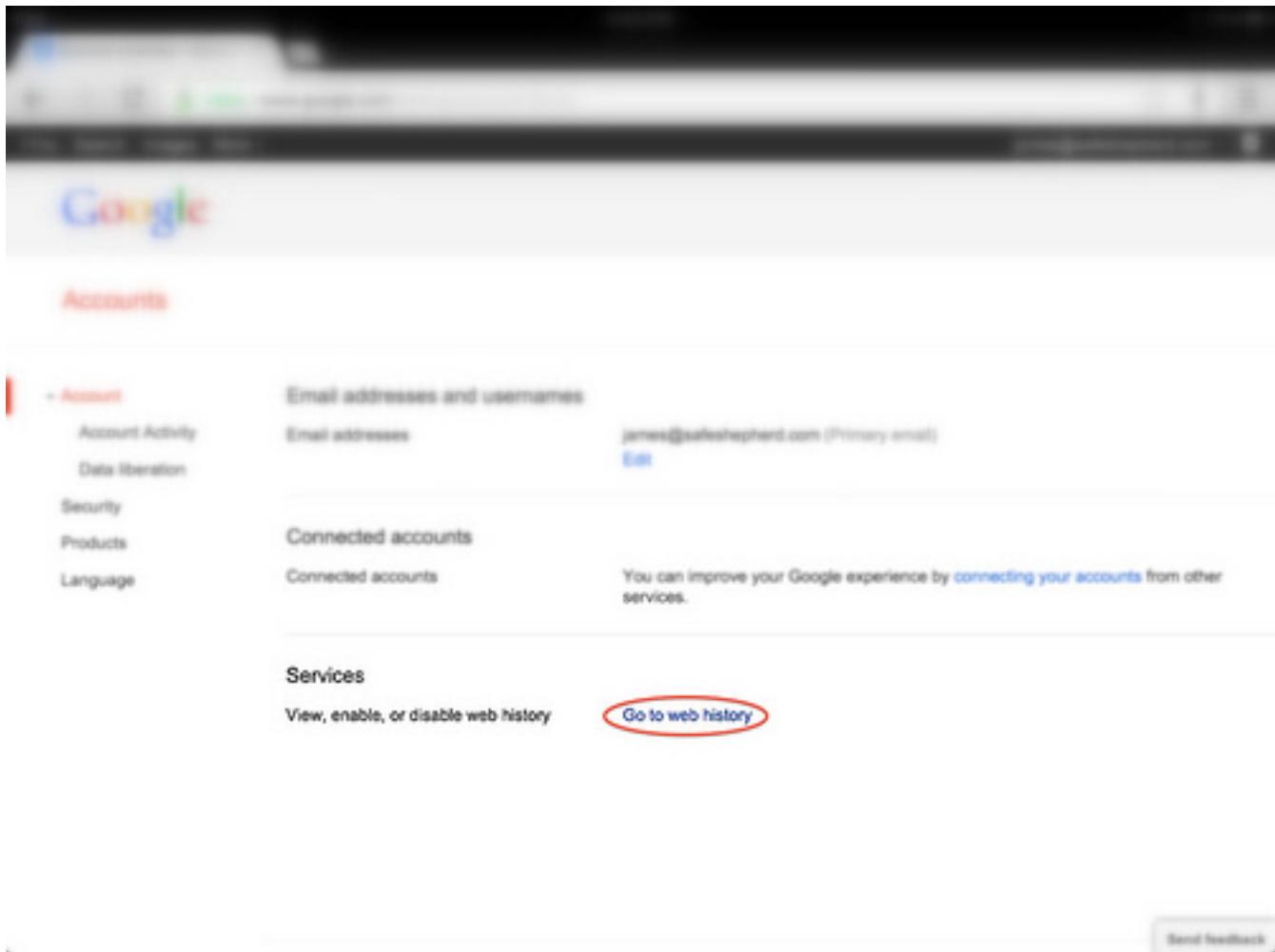


Method 2 – Disable

If you just can't bear to sign in every time you check your email, or if you know you're going to forget, Gmail actually allows you to "pause" search history storage. This pause is equivalent to a cancel button, as I clicked pause about 6 months ago and am still searching anonymously. Seeing as it is phrased as "pause", I recommend checking once a week or so, to make sure your searches still aren't being logged. If you're searching for especially sensitive or embarrassing results [whatever happened to the Backstreet Boys, for example], it might still be a good idea to sign out and use one of those private browsing windows.







The image shows a screenshot of the Google Accounts settings page. At the top, there's a blurred header area with the Google logo. Below it, the word "Accounts" is displayed in red. A sidebar on the left contains a tree view with "Account" expanded, showing "Account Activity", "Data Liberation", "Security", "Products", and "Language". The main content area has two sections: "Email addresses and usernames" and "Connected accounts". Under "Email addresses and usernames", there's a list item for "Email addresses" with the value "james@saleshepherd.com (Primary email)" and a "Edit" link. Under "Connected accounts", there's a note: "You can improve your Google experience by [connecting your accounts](#) from other services." At the bottom, there's a "Services" section with a "View, enable, or disable web history" link, which is circled in red. A "Send Feedback" button is located at the very bottom right.

Accounts

- Account

Email addresses and usernames

Account Activity Email addresses James@saleshepherd.com (Primary email) Edit

Data Liberation

Security

Products Connected accounts

Language Connected accounts You can improve your Google experience by [connecting your accounts](#) from other services.

Services

View, enable, or disable web history [Go to web history](#)

Send Feedback

The screenshot shows the Google Web History interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Search, Images, News, and a user account section. Below it is the Google logo and a search bar.

Web History Only you can see your Google History

All History

- Web
- Images
- News
- Shopping
- Art
- Books
- Music
- Video

Hourly search activity

Bar chart showing search activity from 12:00 to 11:00. The highest peak is at 10:00.

Hour	Activity
12:00	Low
1:00	Very Low
2:00	Very Low
3:00	Very Low
4:00	Very Low
5:00	Low
6:00	Medium
7:00	High
8:00	Medium
9:00	Medium
10:00	Very High
11:00	Medium

Settings (circled)

Help

Web Activity

Oct 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

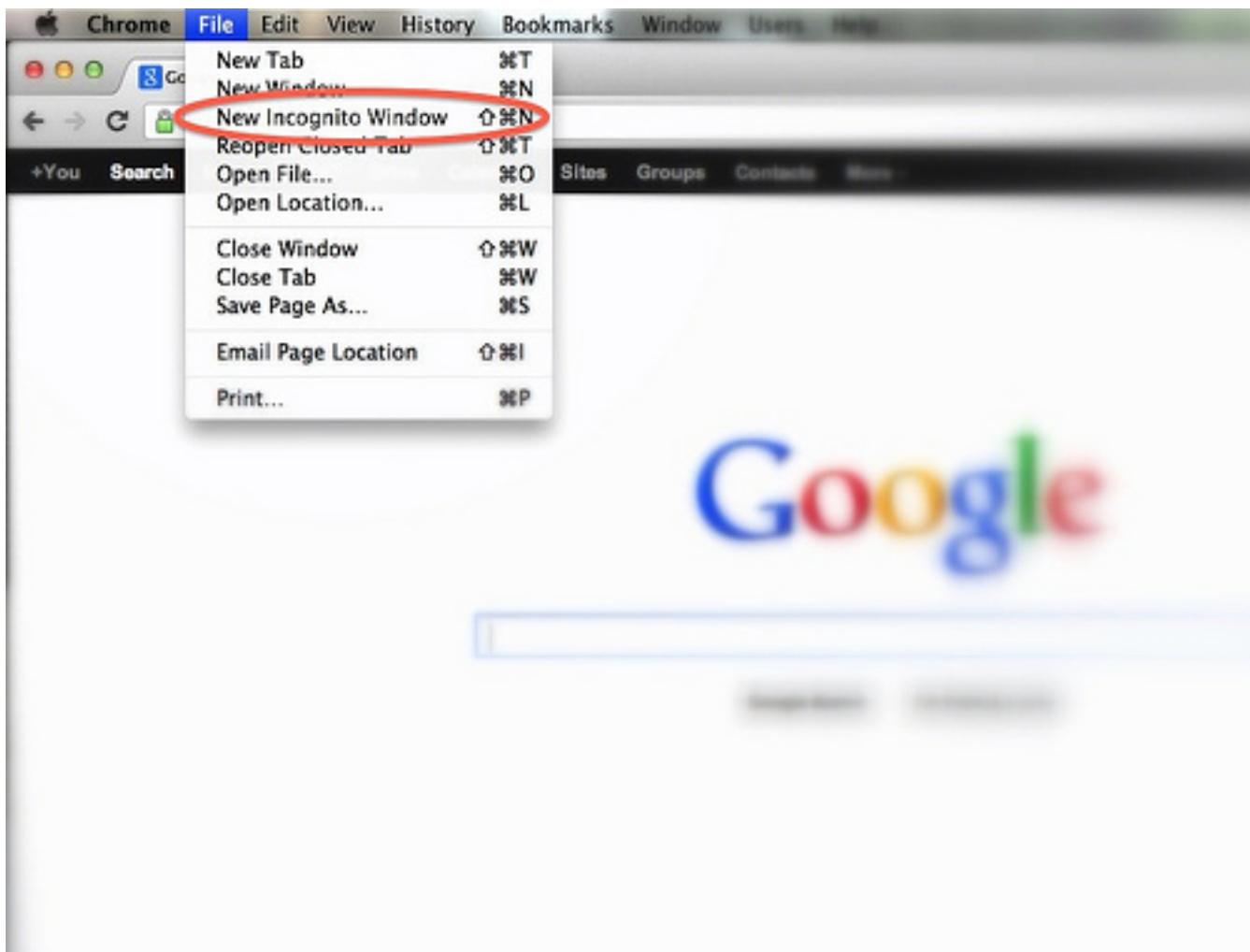
Total Google sessions: 107

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Google - Web History" at 5:54 PM. The URL is <https://history.google.com/history/settings?hl=en>. The page has a "Google" logo and a search bar. It displays two main sections: "Web History" and "Settings". Under "Web History", there is a sidebar with links: All History, Web, Images, News, Shopping, Ads, Videos, Maps, Blogs, Books, and Bookmarks. The "All History" link is highlighted in red. The "Settings" section contains a "Google Search" summary and a "Pause" button, which is circled in red. Below the "Pause" button, it says "Web History is on".

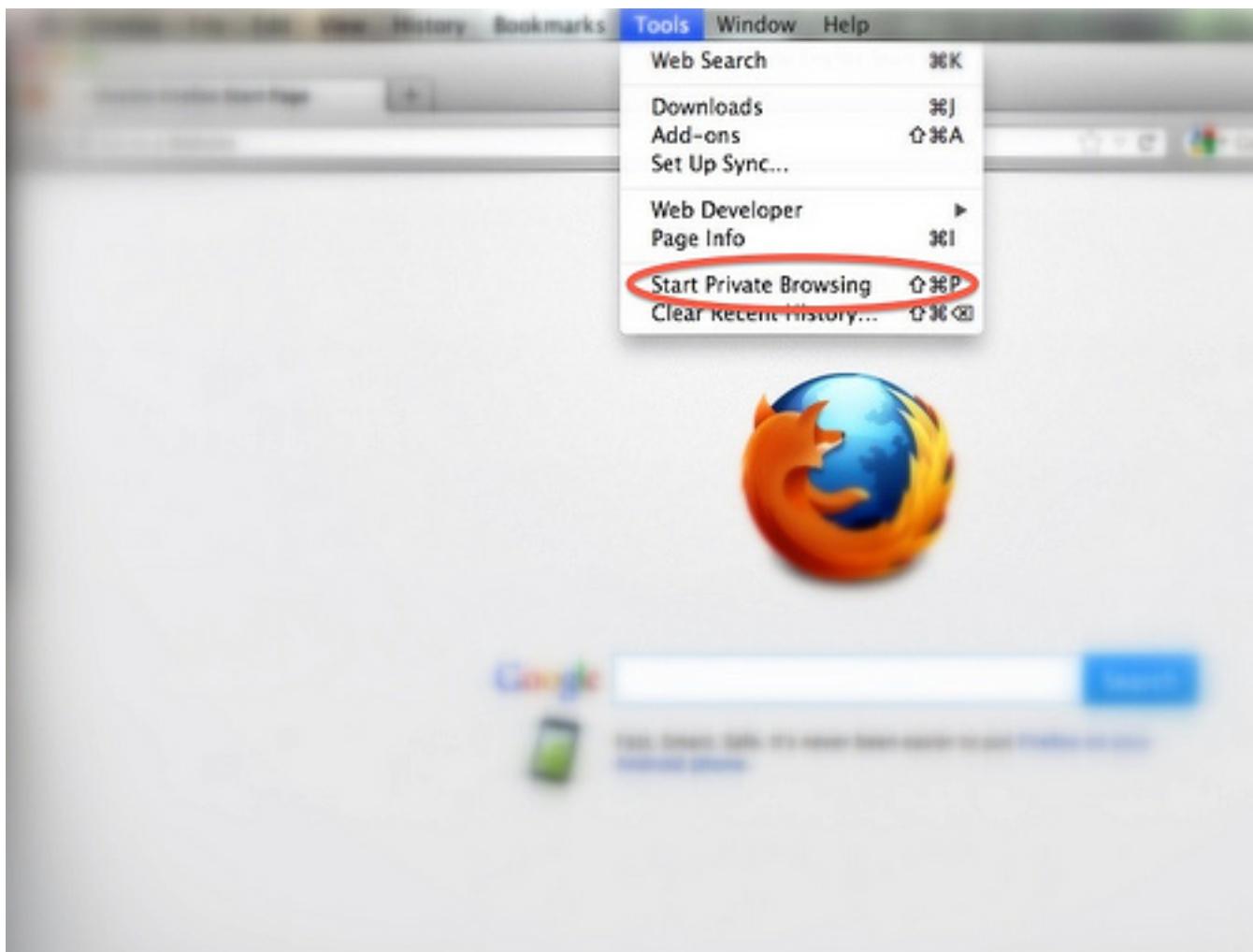
Method 3 – Private Browsing Windows

Most web browsers now have ways to mask at least some of your identity online. Google's Chrome dubs it "Incognito", Firefox and Safari cleverly call it "private browsing", and internet explorer labels it "InPrivate". This "Private" mode doesn't guarantee anonymity however. If you sign in to Gmail after entering private mode, your information might be tracked. The private mode is mostly for keeping the sites you visit out of the history stored on your computer.

Chrome:



Firefox:



Safari:

